

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed January 02, 2008 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-4 and 6-20 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-9 stand rejected. Claims 2 and 10-20 are allowed.

The rejection of Claims 1, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,138,693 to Matz (hereinafter referred to as “Matz”) is respectfully traversed.

Matz describes a detergent dispenser (150) that includes a dispensing shell (152) having a cavity (154) for receipt of detergent therein through a flow coupling tube (156). Upon filling of the cavity with detergent, when the dishwasher requires detergent during a wash cycle, a solenoid (158) is energized so as to cause a lever (160) to draw against the formed magnet thereby opening a seal (162) allowing detergent to flow through an opening (164). Notably, Matz does not describe or suggest a dispenser that includes a first tube that provides flow communication between a reservoir and the dispenser to introduce liquid into the dispenser, and a second tube that provides flow communication between the dispenser and the reservoir to introduce overflow liquid from the dispenser into the reservoir.

Claim 1 recites a system for dispensing a liquid that includes “a reservoir comprising a plurality of apertures disposed therein; and a dispenser in flow communication with said reservoir, said dispenser comprising a first tube coupled with respect to a first aperture of said plurality of apertures and providing flow communication between said reservoir and said dispenser to introduce liquid into said dispenser, and a second tube coupled with respect to a second aperture of said plurality of apertures and providing flow communication between said dispenser and said reservoir to introduce overflow liquid from said dispenser into said reservoir, said dispenser further comprising a body comprising a trough and a cover pivotably coupled to said body, said trough stationary with respect to said body and configured to dispense liquid when said cover is in an open position.”

Matz does not describe or suggest a system as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, Matz does not describe or suggest a system that includes a dispenser including a first tube that is coupled with respect to a first aperture of a reservoir and providing flow

communication between the reservoir and the dispenser to introduce liquid into the dispenser, and a second tube coupled with respect to a second aperture of the reservoir and providing flow communication between the dispenser and the reservoir to introduce overflow liquid from the dispenser into the reservoir. Rather, Matz merely describes a detergent dispenser that defines a cavity that contains the detergent, wherein a solenoid is energized during a wash cycle to draw a lever thereby opening a seal to allow detergent to flow through an opening in the dispenser.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Matz.

Claims 8 and 9 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 8 and 9 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 8 and 9 likewise are patentable over Matz.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1, 8 and 9 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matz in view of U.S. Pat. No. 3,127,067 to Hall et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Hall") is respectfully traversed.

Matz is described above. Hall describes a dispenser (82) that has a ball check valve (100) that includes a cage (102), a ball (104) and a valve seat (106). The valve seat (106) is adjacent the inlet end of an inlet tube (108) in the end of the dispenser (82). The valve cage (102) is mounted at an oblique angle and pointed upwardly so that the ball (104) normally sits against the valve seat (106) by gravity. The inlet tube (108) in the dispenser (82) is aligned with a water pipe (110). As water from the water pipe (110) unseats the ball (104) from the valve seat (106), the ball (104) is retained in the path of the water stream by the cage (102) and breaks up the stream of water thereby creating a flushing action which washes the granules over the barrier (86) into the chamber (94) and through the opening (98) into the washing chamber (96).

Claim 1 recites a system for dispensing a liquid that includes "a reservoir comprising a plurality of apertures disposed therein; and a dispenser in flow communication with said reservoir, said dispenser comprising a first tube coupled with respect to a first aperture of said plurality of apertures and providing flow communication between said reservoir and said

dispenser to introduce liquid into said dispenser, and a second tube coupled with respect to a second aperture of said plurality of apertures and providing flow communication between said dispenser and said reservoir to introduce overflow liquid from said dispenser into said reservoir, said dispenser further comprising a body comprising a trough and a cover pivotably coupled to said body, said trough stationary with respect to said body and configured to dispense liquid when said cover is in an open position.”

No combination of Matz and Hall describes or suggests a system as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, no combination of Matz and Hall describes or suggests a system that includes a dispenser including a first tube that is coupled with respect to a first aperture of a reservoir and providing flow communication between the reservoir and the dispenser to introduce liquid into the dispenser, and a second tube coupled with respect to a second aperture of the reservoir and providing flow communication between the dispenser and the reservoir to introduce overflow liquid from the dispenser into the reservoir. Rather, Matz merely describes a detergent dispenser that defines a cavity that contains the detergent, wherein a solenoid is energized during a wash cycle to draw a lever thereby opening a seal to allow detergent to flow through an opening in the dispenser, and Hall describes a dispenser that includes a ball check valve in which the ball normally sits against a valve seat by gravity and, as water unseats the ball from the valve seat, the ball breaks up the steam of water thereby creating a flushing action which washes the granules into a washing chamber.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Matz in view of Hall.

Claims 3 and 4 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 3 and 4 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 3 and 4 likewise are patentable over Matz in view of Hall.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 3 and 4 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matz in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,396,914 to McNair. (hereinafter referred to as “McNair”) is respectfully traversed.

Matz is described above. McNair describes a dishwasher having a bowl (4), a pump (6) and a dispensing apparatus (10). The dispensing apparatus (10) includes a hollow cylindrical body (11) including upper and lower chambers (16, 18). A container (28) of liquid detergent is placed in the upper chamber (16) for dispensing into the bowl (4). The container (28) includes a flexible bag (30) having an outer nozzle (32) coupled thereto. When the pump (6) operates, it will have a pressure of about 2-5 psi at its outlet. The pressure of the water in the chambers (16, 18) causes collapsing of the bag (30) and hence discharge of the detergent into the bowl.

Claim 1 recites a system for dispensing a liquid that includes “a reservoir comprising a plurality of apertures disposed therein; and a dispenser in flow communication with said reservoir, said dispenser comprising a first tube coupled with respect to a first aperture of said plurality of apertures and providing flow communication between said reservoir and said dispenser to introduce liquid into said dispenser, and a second tube coupled with respect to a second aperture of said plurality of apertures and providing flow communication between said dispenser and said reservoir to introduce overflow liquid from said dispenser into said reservoir, said dispenser further comprising a body comprising a trough and a cover pivotably coupled to said body, said trough stationary with respect to said body and configured to dispense liquid when said cover is in an open position.”

No combination of Matz and McNair describes or suggests a system as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, no combination of Matz and McNair describes or suggests a system that includes a dispenser including a first tube that is coupled with respect to a first aperture of a reservoir and providing flow communication between the reservoir and the dispenser to introduce liquid into the dispenser, and a second tube coupled with respect to a second aperture of the reservoir and providing flow communication between the dispenser and the reservoir to introduce overflow liquid from the dispenser into the reservoir. Rather, Matz merely describes a detergent dispenser that defines a cavity that contains the detergent, wherein a solenoid is energized during a wash cycle to draw a lever thereby opening a seal to allow detergent to flow through an opening in the dispenser, and McNair describes a dishwasher that utilizes water pressure from a pump to eject detergent from a flexible bag into a bowl.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Matz in view of McNair.

Claims 6 and 7 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 6 and 7 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 6 and 7 likewise are patentable over Matz in view of McNair.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 6 and 7 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric T. Krischke
Registration No. 42,769
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070